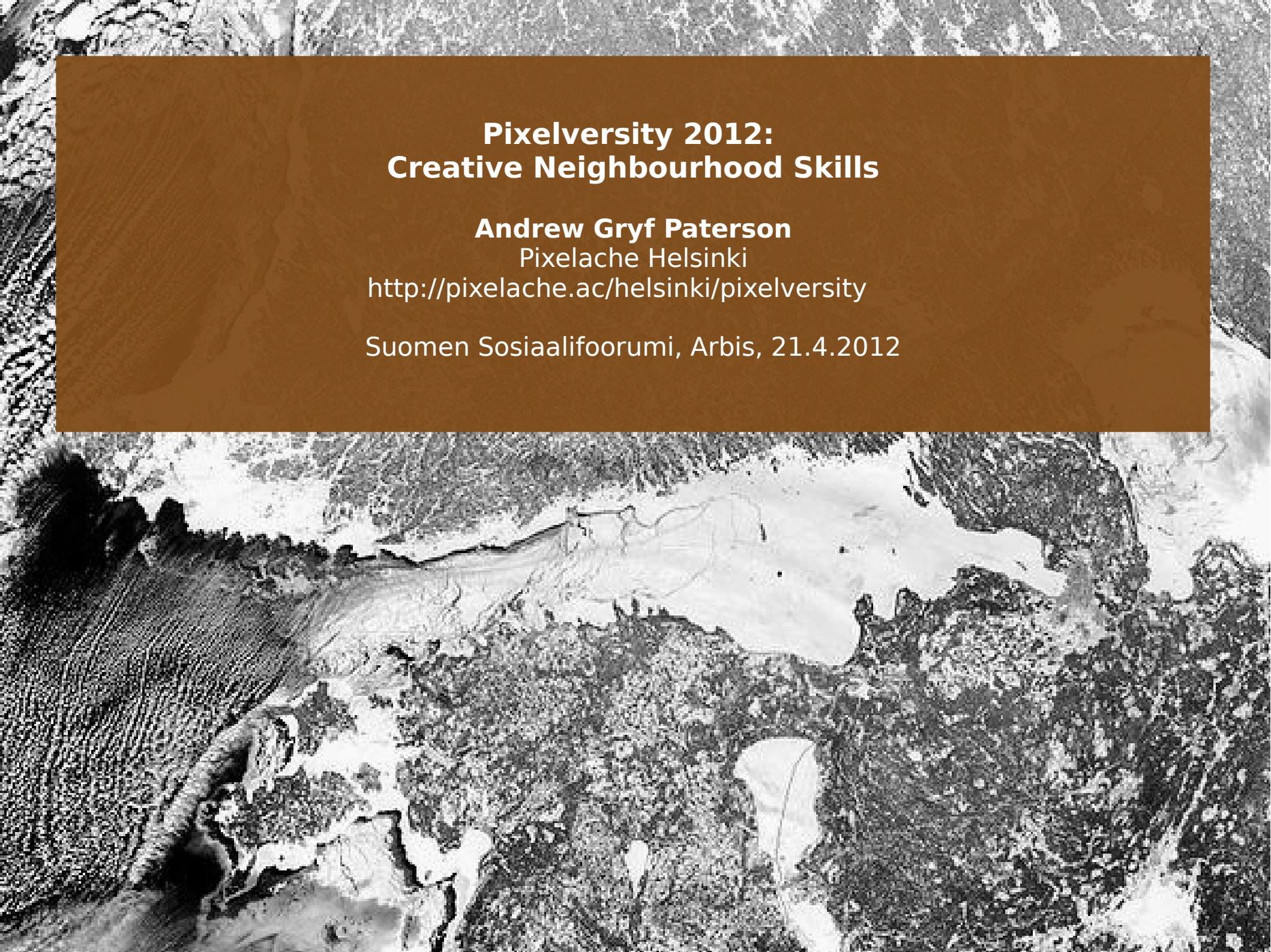


Pixelversity 2012:
Creative Neighbourhood Skills

Andrew Gryf Paterson
Pixelache Helsinki
http://pixelache.ac/helsinki/pixelversity

Suomen Sosiaalifoorumi, Arbis, 21.4.2012

MY BACKGROUND

Scottish artist-organiser in the cultural field, independent researcher..

* Since being based in Helsinki, I have been involved in collaborative productions in Finland, Estonia, Latvia & beyond the region

* I am motivated by socially-engaged arts, facilitation & open plan processes, open source/knowledge -sharing & network culture, alternative economies, environmental arts & activism,, grassroots cultural heritage

* These different subjects and approaches I have brought also to Pixelache

Since 01.2011..

* Part-time employed by Finnish non-profit cultural association *Piknik Frequency* (organisers of *Pixelache Helsinki*)

* I facilitate & coordinate an informal outreach and pedagogical programme called **Pixelversity**..

SNAPSHOT OF PIXELACHE HELSINKI ORGANISATION IN 2012

"Organised Network" of people
~ 12-15 association members, 3-4 staff (1 full-time & 2-3 part-time)
+ 8 Expert board-members (5 in Helsinki, 3 in Tallinn)
~ 10-15 regular professional friends or unaffiliated associates in Nordic/Europe
+ 3-5 active international partner nodes (e.g. Bergen, Reykjavik, Paris, Nantes, Dakar)

Range of motivations:
* fun, hobby event to test or experiment with prototypes, new practices
* way to present recent professional practice
* present/engage work of established international artists, curators, theorists, etc
*** engage with social, environmental & appropriate technology issues**
* for a lucky handful it is a mix of all

Developing friendships, collaborators and peers, but also

A cluster of several "communities of practice",
who share concern and passion for what they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly (Ref: E. Wenger)
* with each other
* with other organisations and institutions
* with other publics and communities



D.I.W.O.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING & PEDAGOGY AMONG PEERS

Piknik Frequency/Pixelache Helsinki is part of a regional and international network of similar practitioners, organisers and producers.

How do we learn from our peers—labs, organisations, networks, individual practitioners and artistic communities—in the independent media arts and networked cultural scene of Europe?

* Sharing information about events and ideas remotely online,
* Travel attending gatherings or festivals.

Regular feature at physical gatherings:
* **Workshops and discussion seminars**
* Sharing new skills or introducing new projects or ways of working

Development from the ‘Do-It-Yourself’ initiative (D.I.Y.)..
Into a ‘Do-It-Ourselves’ or **‘Do-It-With-Others’** (D.I.W.O.)
(Ref: http://furtherfield.org)

Trend towards social and community learning: learning from peers and experience, as well as learning by doing, and doing it together

PIXELVERSITY
Term used by *Piknik Frequency/Pixelache Helsinki* since 2008-
But only since 2010 has programme been facilitated and planned in advance.

Outreach & education programme ongoing throughout year
* Beyond the usual 1-week festival period
* Some events share & sustain ongoing local practice by association members
* Other events benefit from serendipity & specialists visiting Helsinki or region

In 2011 the programme was formed from nominations by association members, building up capacity and knowledge identifying activity for 2012

* **Support to travel and spend time together**
* **Outreach extending beyond Helsinki to partner associations in 2011:**
 - Artists in the Archipalego, Kemiö, SW Finland
 - MIM Project & Plektrum Festival, Tallinn, Estonia
 - Pispala Cultural Association, Tampere
 - Centre for Independent Social Research, St. Petersburg, Russia

Promoted as a **'learning bridge'** between practitioners, cultural and non-profit organisations, interested individuals and larger institutions.

http://pixelache.ac/helsinki/pixelversity



Jon Irigoyen & Otto Karvonen make Green Corner intervention in Kallio Kukkii Festival, Helsinki, 13.5.2011.
http://jonirigoyen.com/Green-Corner



Image: Jon Irigoyen

Jon Irigoyen & Otto Karvonen lead Kallio Expedition: Uses & Abuses of Public Space,Helsinki, 18-19.6.2011.
http://jonirigoyen.com/Kallio-Expedition



Image: Jon Irigoyen

Jon Irigoyen & Otto Karvonen lead Kallio Expedition: Uses & Abuses of Public Space,Helsinki, 18-19.6.2011.
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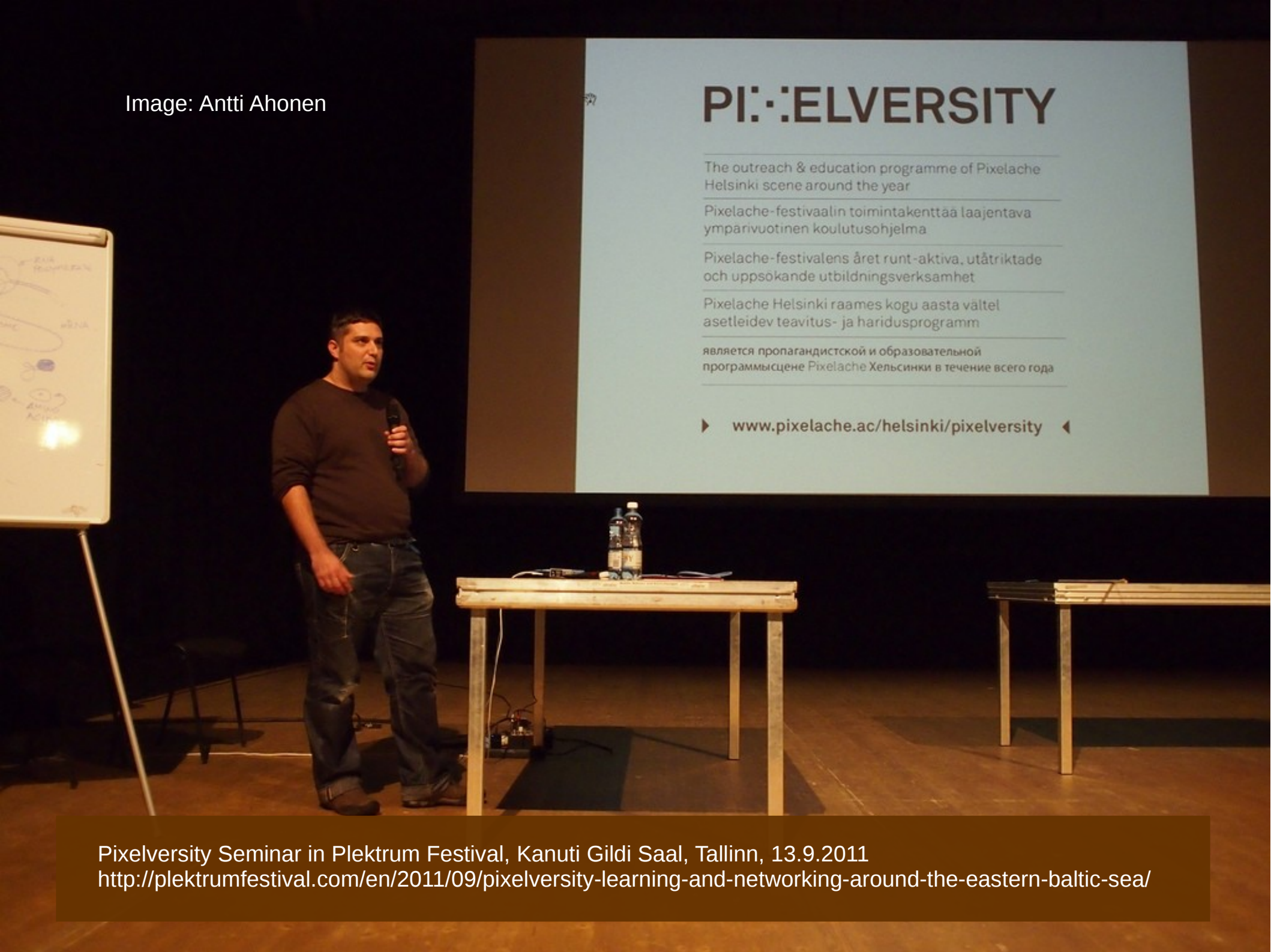


Image: Antti Ahonen

Pixelversity Seminar in Plektrum Festival, Kanuti Gildi Saal, Tallinn, 13.9.2011
http://plektrumfestival.com/en/2011/09/pixelversity-learning-and-networking-around-the-eastern-baltic-sea/

Image: Antti Ahonen



Pixelversity Seminar in Plektrum Festival, Kanuti Gildi Saal, Tallinn, 13.9.2011
http://plektrumfestival.com/en/2011/09/pixelversity-learning-and-networking-around-the-eastern-baltic-sea/

PROGRAMME 2012 -



PI::ELVERSITY

PIXELVERSITY 2012
Cluster themes

* **Gulf of Finland / Finland + NW Russia + Estonia**
Multi- / trans- disciplinary capacity building around Commons issues

** **Trashlab / Renewable Festivals**
Do-it-with-others energy, low-carbon, waste & sustainablity issues

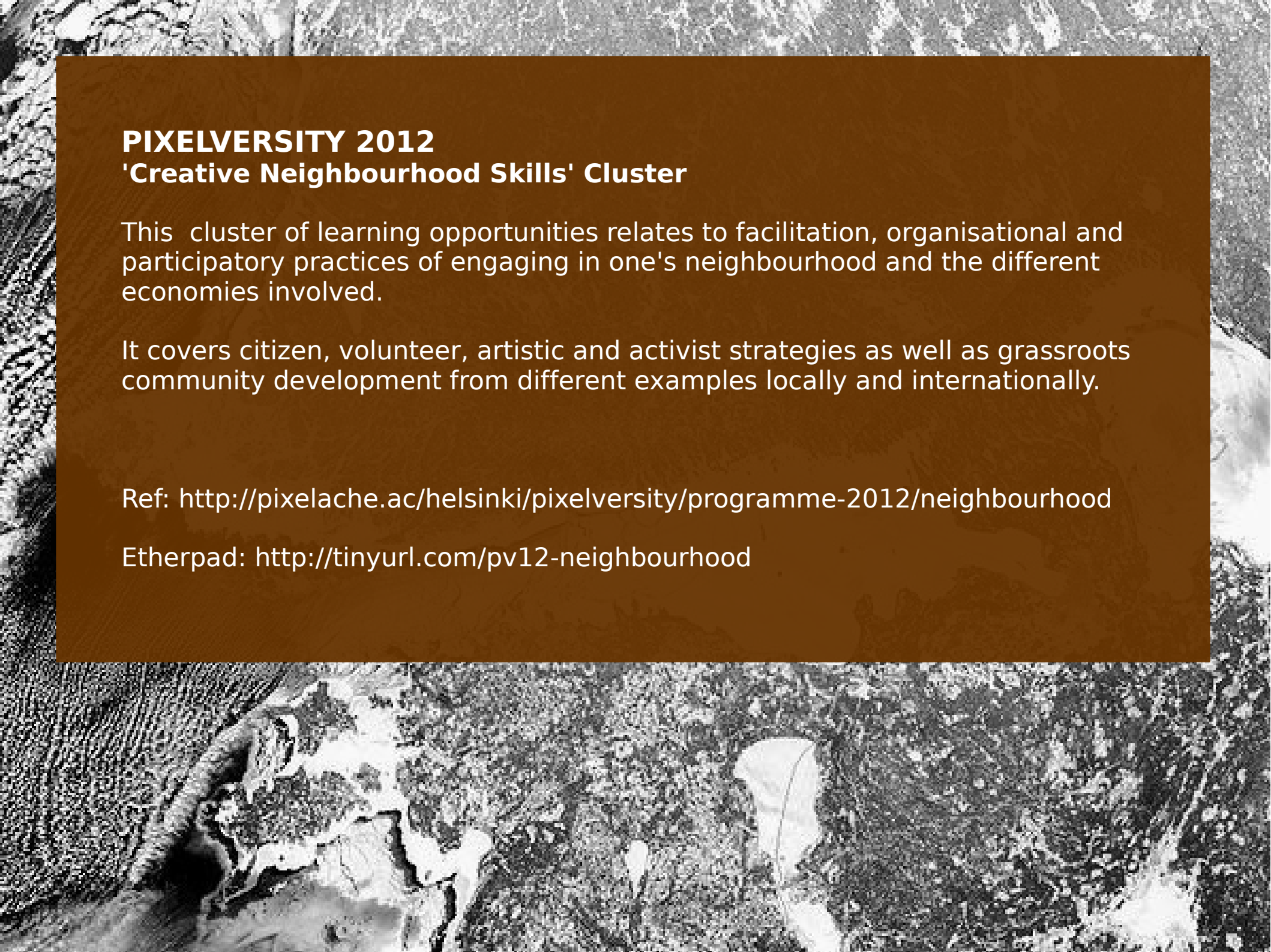
** **Creative Neighbourhood Skills**
Engaging in neighbourhoods & the economics involved

** **Ecosystem and Environmental Monitoring**
Sensors, gathering ecological data, participatory science, local workshops

** **Virtuality, Social Identity and Augmented Reality**
Digital tools, interfaces between public / private, personal / social & real / virtual

** **Open Design, Crafts and Manufacturing**
Mobilising around ‘open design’ protocols and resources

Ref: http://pixelache.ac/helsinki/pixelversity/programme-2012/



PIXELVERSITY 2012
'Creative Neighbourhood Skills' Cluster

This cluster of learning opportunities relates to facilitation, organisational and participatory practices of engaging in one's neighbourhood and the different economies involved.

It covers citizen, volunteer, artistic and activist strategies as well as grassroots community development from different examples locally and internationally.

Ref: http://pixelache.ac/helsinki/pixelversity/programme-2012/neighbourhood

Etherpad: http://tinyurl.com/pv12-neighbourhood

PIXELVERSITY 2012
'Creative Neighbourhood Skills' Events

21.4.
Contribution to **Finnish Social Forum** by Pixelache/Pixelversity at Arbis, Helsinki

23-25.4.
Visit of **CISR** group from **St. Petersberg to Helsinki** (24.4. presentation!)

12.5.
Camp Pixelache theme contributions at Arbis, Helsinki

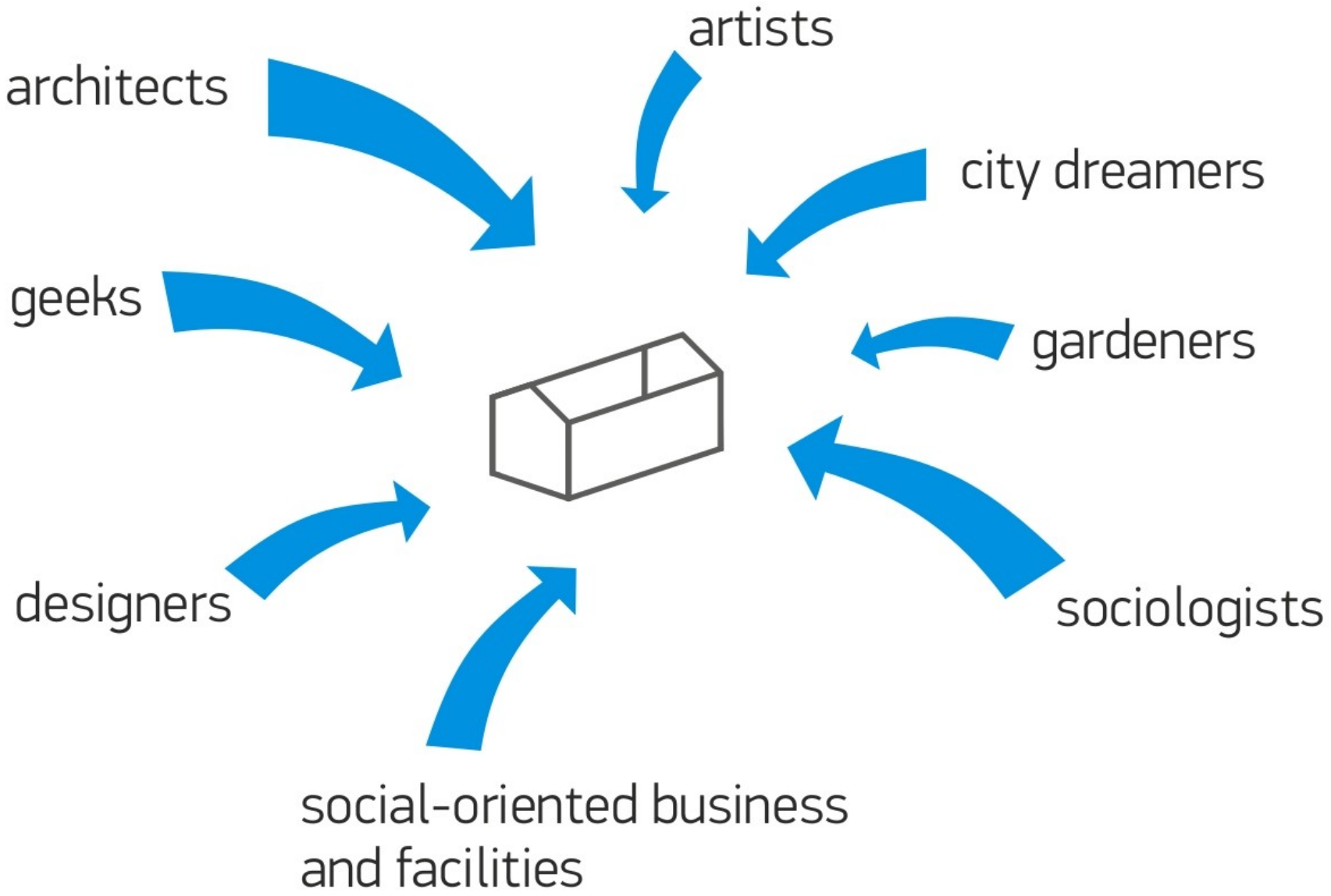
14-20.6.
2 Helsinki-based participants in **Active Urbanism Workshop** organised by **Linnalabor** in Tallinn

24-26.8.
Coop Camp at Hirvitalo/Pispala Library, Pispala-Tampere

16-17.10.
Art-(Social) Science Seminar organised by **CISR** in St. Petersburg

??-??.11.
Light is History project by **En-Arki** (Karthikeya Archaya & Samir Bhowmik in Helsinki

Graphic: DIY Festival organised by CISR and others, St. Petersburg 1-13.5.2012



PIXELVERSITY 2012
Partnership in Art-(Social) Science with CISR, St. Petersburg

* Following on from last year's co-presentation at Plektrum Festival in Tallinn,
 In 2012, serveral **travels & exchanges between Helsinki-St.Petersburg**.

* Andrew Paterson presented Pixelache's urban project history in their office,
 January 2012

* In April (24-26.4.) a group of 3 persons visit from CISR to Helsinki,
 To learn about local public arts and urban cultural centres.

 Also presentation!: 'Relations between Art, Social Science, and Museums'
 Tuesday 24.4. - 18.00 at Pixelache office (Kaapelitehdas) NB: FB event

 Visit via Norden's support for exchange between Nordic & Russian NGOs

* Sending Camp Pixelache guest Pedro Soler for CISR's CityCult lecture series,
 aswell as urban researcher Gareth Rice.

* A follow-up seminar **16-18.10.** is planned by Art-(Social) Science group
 bringing further Nordic-Russian exchange.

Ref: http://www.cisr.ru/ | http://cisr.ru/art.en.html

Graphic: DIY Festival organised by CISR and others, St. Petersburg 1-13.5.2012

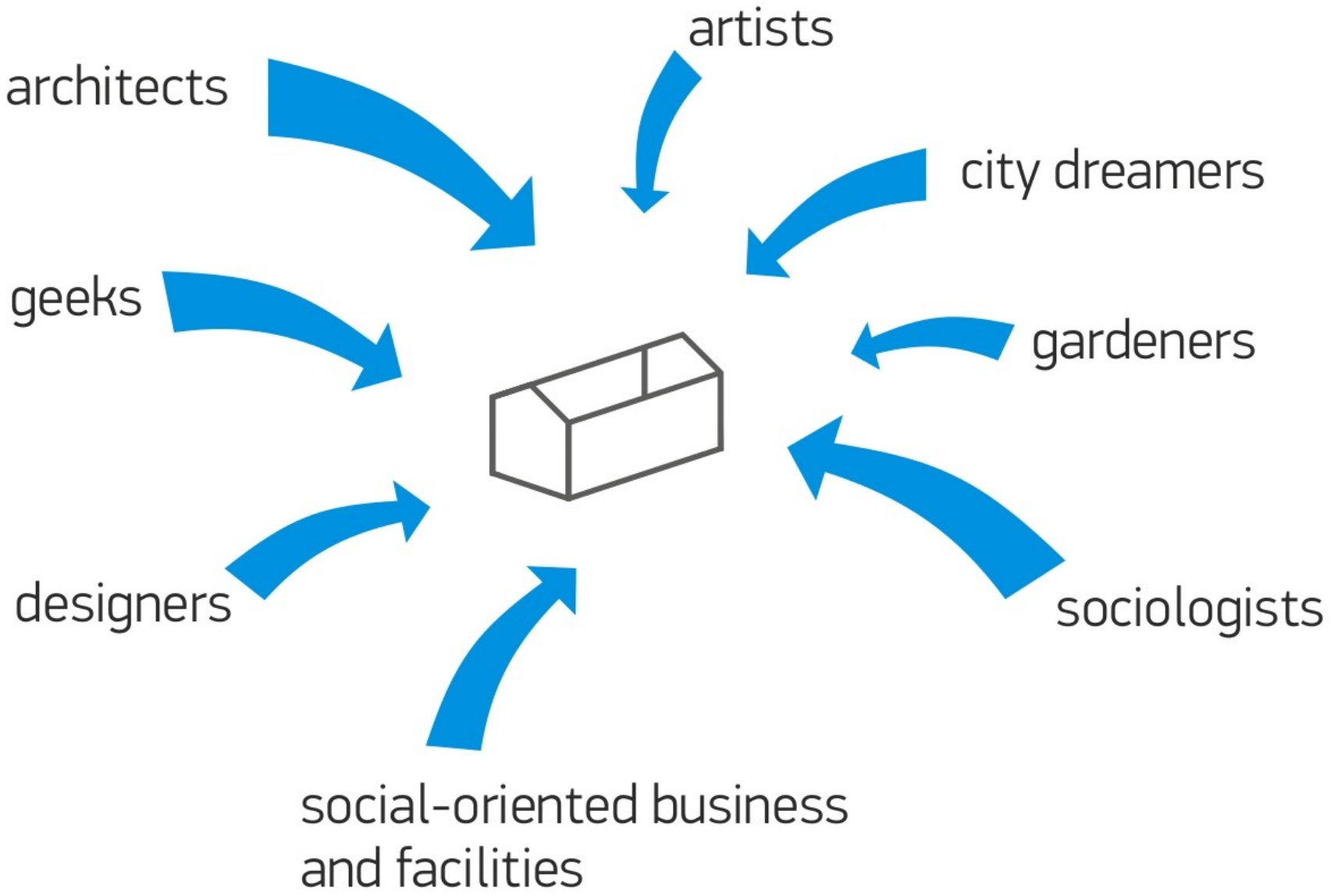




Image: Urban Activism Workshop organised by Linnalabor, Tallinn, 14-20.6.2012



PIXELVERSITY 2012
Partnership with Linnalabor, Tallinn

* Linnalabor are organising an Urban Activsm workshop from **14–20.6.** in Tallinn, **exploring questions & issues of urban activism in post-socialist context**

* **They bring together different people from all over Europe**
Sharing ideas on how to enliven and make difference in the public space, with support from Grundtvig lifelong-learning programme

* Participants study city activism examples in Tallinn, Estonia, Europe+
Elaborate **new methods and tools** for realizing ongoing events & interventions

* Pixelversity helps **support with promotion and financing a couple practitioners to attend from Helskinki** (Vladimir Kekez, Jon Irigoyen)

* The workshop is followed by the 22nd INURA (International Network for Urban Research and Action) conference in 17-24 June.

Ref: http://urbanactivism2012tallinn.wordpress.com/

Ref: http://inura2012tallinn.wordpress.com/



Image: Urban Activism Workshop organised by Linnalabor, Tallinn, 14-20.6.2012



Image: Women constructing Kultturitalo 1952-1958, Helsinki, Kansanarkisto (KansA715-1991)



PIXELVERSITY 2012
Kulttuuritalo research project in Kallio-Helsinki

* **Domènec Montserrat Quadrada** (ES) in collaboration with **Jon Irigoyen** (Pixelache) develop a research & exhibition project that focuses on **Kultturitalo**

* **Symbol of an era and icon of the Finnish labor movement**, a building today which is promoted as a monument of architecture, stripped of all its ideological baggage.

* Aims to recover the forgotten history and memory of the thousands of militant workers and volunteers who participated in building (1952-1958) and using the centre.

* The project re-presents a selected visual record of the volunteers as testimony to the building's original value & meaning, in various contexts:

* **Presentation in Camp Pixelache**

* **Exhibition in HIAP Kaapeli Gallery 19.07.–12.8.2012**

Ref: http://www.kulttuuritalo.fi/en/history/

Ref: http://jonirigoyen.com/ | http://www.domenec.net/



Image: Women constructing Kultturitalo 1952-1958, Helsinki, Kansanarkisto (KansA715-1991)


COOP
camp
TRE
23.-26.
8.2012

PIXELVERSITY 2012
Coop Camp in Pispala-Tampere

* Following last year's first Coop Camp, the second annual event will take place in Pispala-Tampere again from **23-26.8.**

* Coop Camp is a **tietotalkoot** event

* Learn about cooperatives, to share experiences, stories and practices of different types of cooperativism (osuustoiminta) from grassroots and neighbourhood perspective

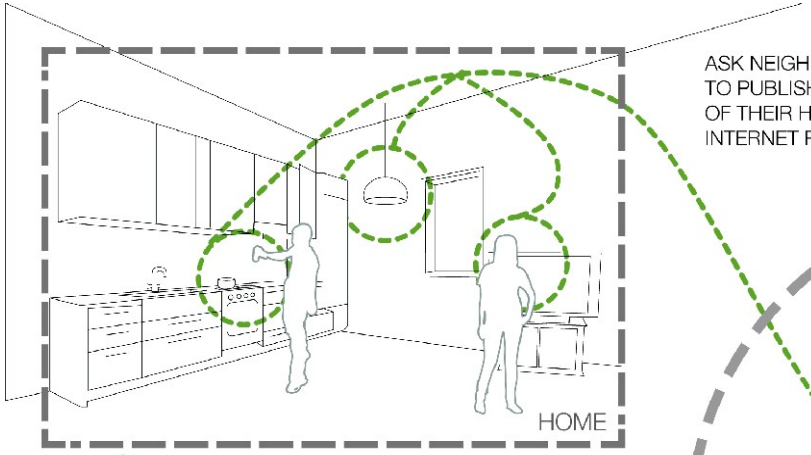
* **Trans-disciplinary weekend of events connects the practice of informal cultural cooperation and formal cooperatives** (kulttuuriosuuskunta) in Pirkkanmaa and wider Finland

* This year special international guest will be urban forager, **permaculturalist** & social entrepreneur **Nancy Khlem from Chicago, USA**

Ref: http://www.hirvikatu10.net/ | http://spontaneousvegetation.net

Ref: http://www.pixelache.ac/helsinki/pixelversity/programme-2011/coop-camp/

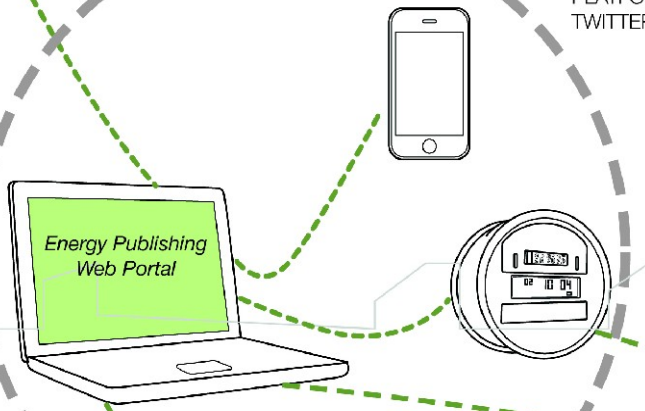

COOP
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ASK NEIGHBORHOOD PARTICIPANTS
TO PUBLISH DAILY ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION
OF THEIR HOMES THROUGH AN
INTERNET PLATFORM

SOCIAL NETWORKS application for consumption publishing

ALLOW THESE ACTS TO BE ALSO PUBLISHED
ON POPULAR SOCIAL NETWORKING
PLATFORMS LIKE FACEBOOK AND
TWITTER



Sävel+

COLLABORATE WITH ENERGY PROVIDER, HELSINGIN ENERGIA
TO AGGREGATE THIS DATA TO GENERATE
PERIODIC FEEDS (TBD with stakeholder)

OBJECT/ARTIFACT

HISTORICAL DOMESTIC DAILY
USE GLASS OBJECT STUDY
TO BE USED FOR BUILDING
THE LIGHT INSTALLATION

WEB BASED

RECEIVE FEED FROM
ENERGY PROVIDER

RECEIVE FEED FROM
WEB PORTAL

D.I.Y. LAMP

THERAPY LAMPS CREATED
USING DIY METHODS WITH
DOMESTIC GLASS ARTIFACT

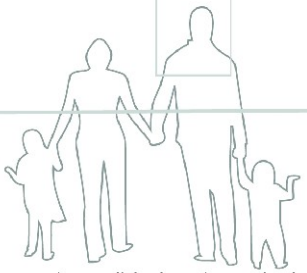
PROVIDE LIVE FEEDBACK
LOOP TO PARTICIPATING
CITIZENS THROUGH
INTERNET

A BRIGHT LIGHT INSTALLATION
BUILT OF DIY SEASONAL LIGHT
THERAPY LAMPS

LIGHT THERAPY
INSTALLATION

ON-SITE
COMPUTER

COMMUNITY
URBAN SPACE



LIGHT IS HISTORY

an outdoor light therapy installation that promotes community well-being through domestic energy saving

PIXELVERSITY 2012
Light is History project by En-Arki in Helsinki

* **En-Arki (Karthikeya Acharya & Samir Bhowmik)** develop a project over the year, in the context of Trashlab,that culminates in **local community engagement**.

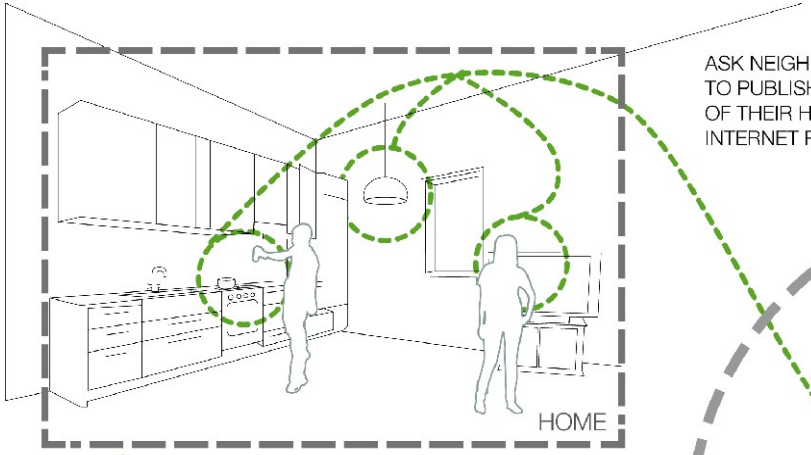
* **Light is History** project proposes a **community outdoor light installation** that promotes citizen participation.

* Aims to allow people of a neighborhood to contribute saved energy from their homes towards community well-being through a light installation in public spaces: **neighborhood squares & backyards**.

* Made of domestic artifacts in a DIY spirit, to serve as a **Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D.) lamp** during the dark autumnal months of the year providing **communal light therapy**.

* Citizen participation entails **publishing their domestic energy savings** on a web portal that feeds the light installation.

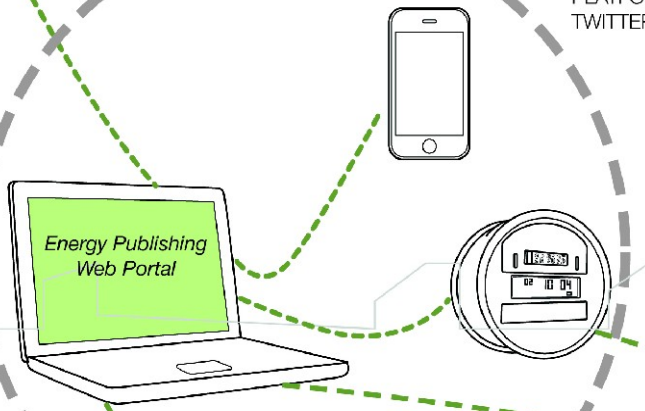
Ref: http://karthikeya.net/ | http://samirbhowmik.com/



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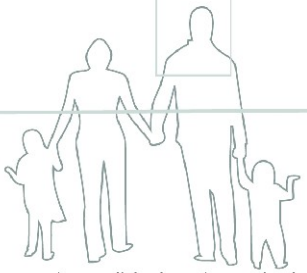
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CONTACTS & FURTHER INFORMATION

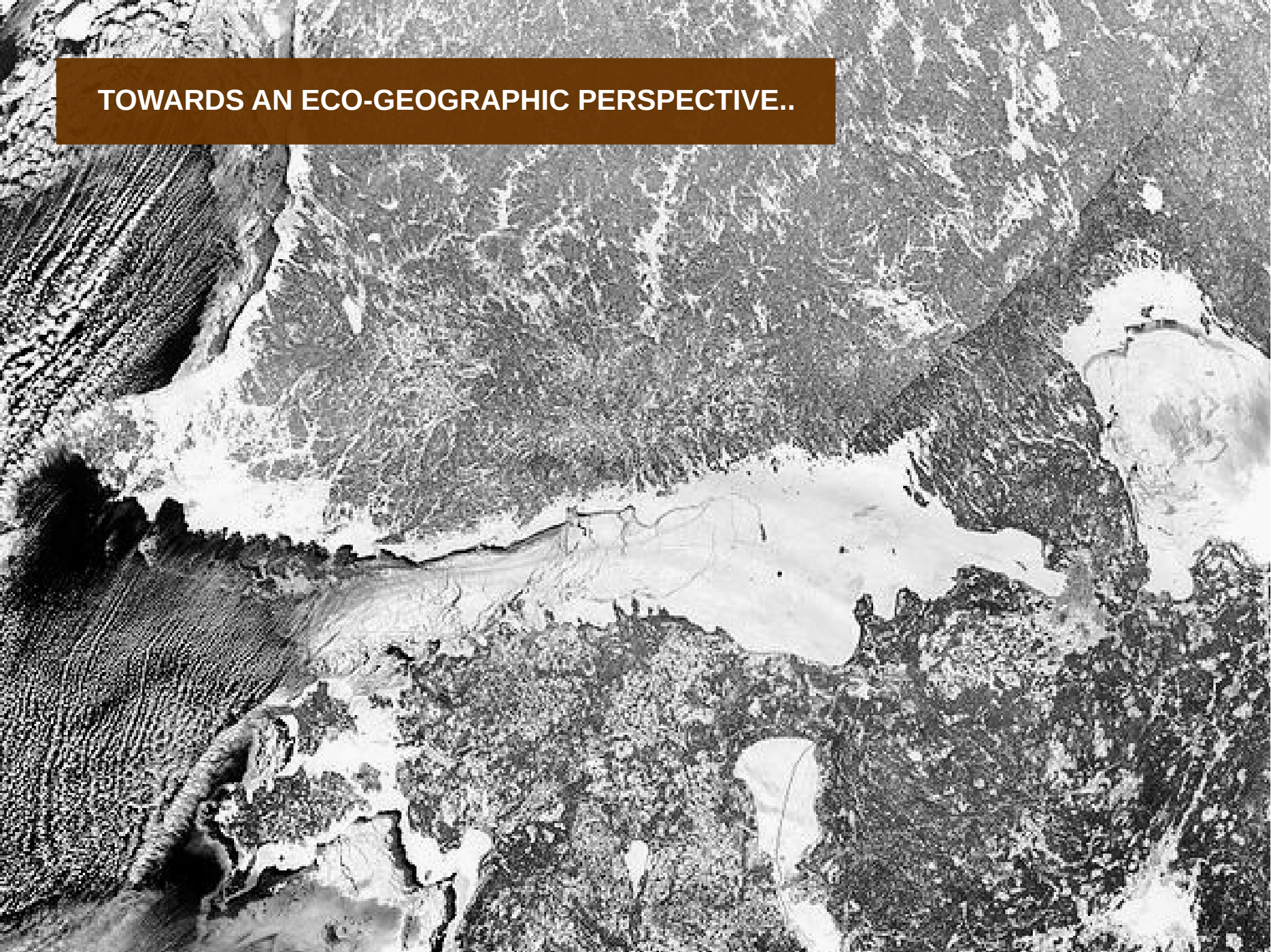
Andrew Gryf Paterson

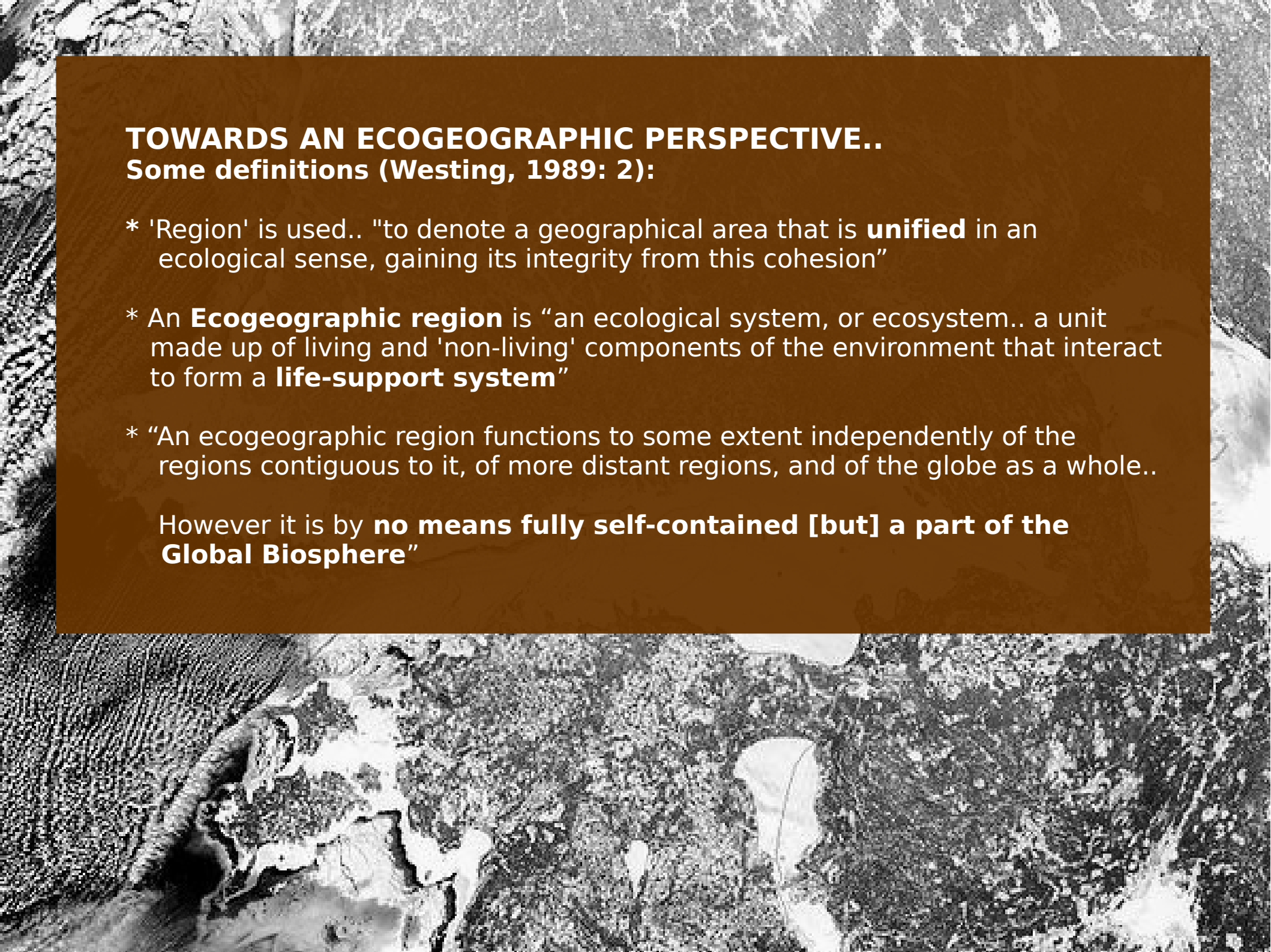
agryfp@pixelache.ac

http://pixelache.ac/helsinki/pixelversity

http://pixelache.ac/helsinki/pixelversity/programme-2012/

TOWARDS AN ECO-GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE..





TOWARDS AN ECOGEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE..

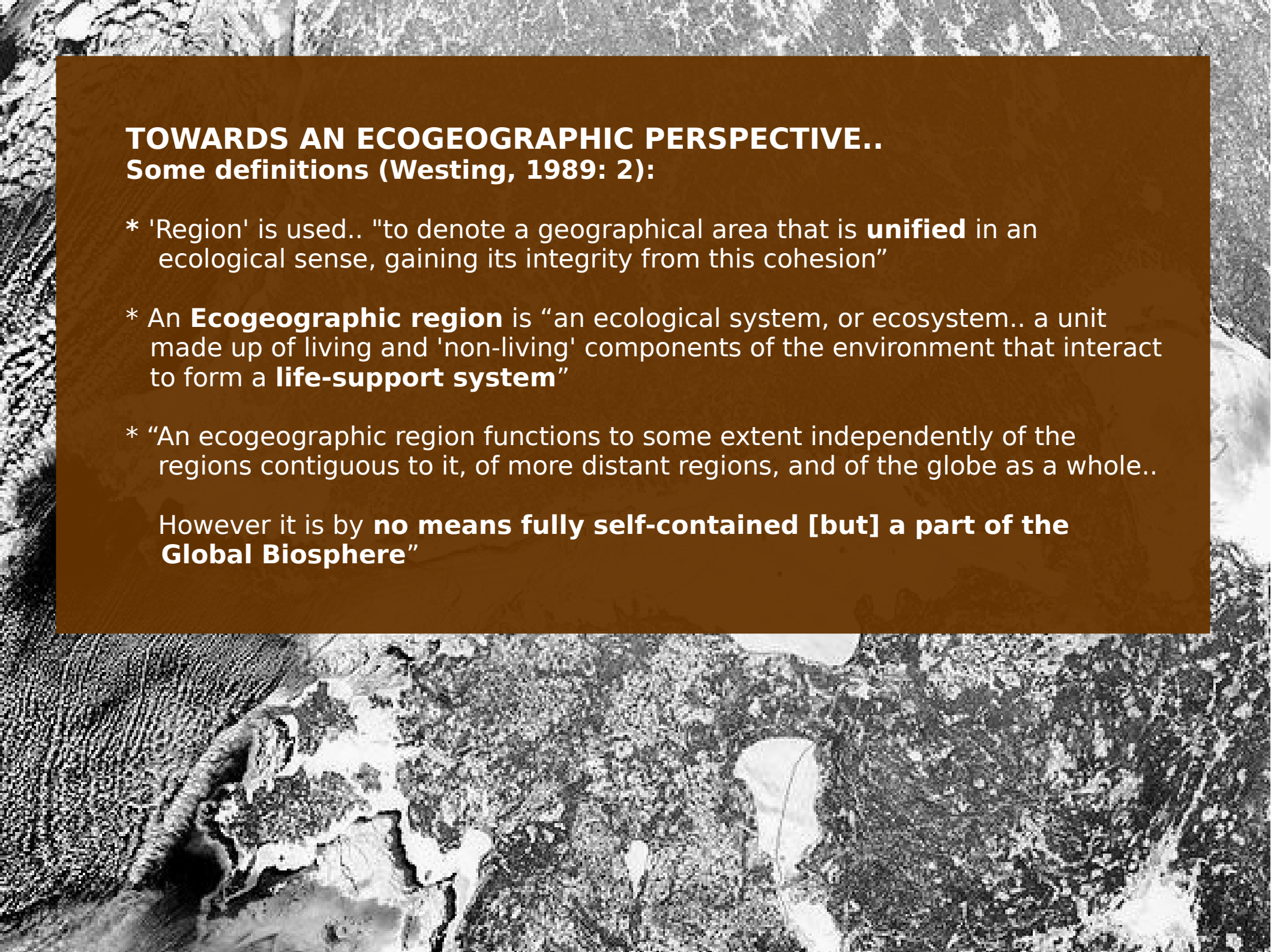
Some definitions (Westing, 1989: 2):

* 'Region' is used.. "to denote a geographical area that is **unified** in an ecological sense, gaining its integrity from this cohesion"

* An **Ecogeographic region** is "an ecological system, or ecosystem.. a unit made up of living and 'non-living' components of the environment that interact to form a **life-support system**"

* "An ecogeographic region functions to some extent independently of the regions contiguous to it, of more distant regions, and of the globe as a whole..

However it is by **no means fully self-contained [but] a part of the Global Biosphere**"



TOWARDS AN ECOGEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE..

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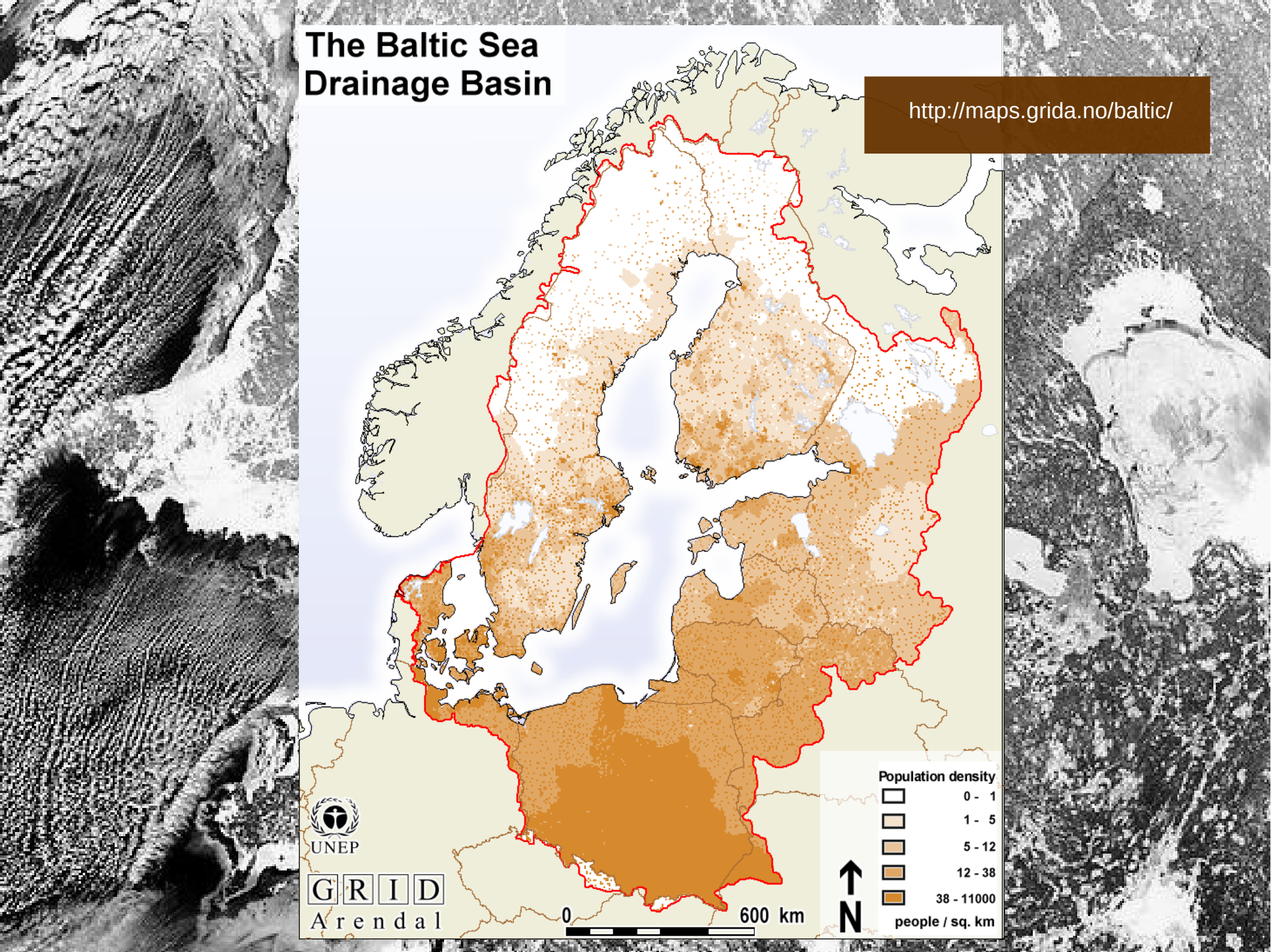
* **“Can be terrestrial or aquatic (freshwater or marine)” or include both; “Can be inhabited or not”; “can subsume either or both of territorial (national) and extra-territorial (common-heritage) areas**”

* “[T]he criteria that contribute to its definition should be extended to **Include basic agricultural and silvicultural self-sufficiency**”

* “It is **never possible to define the boundaries** of an ecogeographic region **with enormous precision**, although approximate limits can often be established..”

* “Examples.. are **seas with their associated drainage basins** (watersheds, catchment areas), major rivers with their associated drainage basins, major mountain ranges, major islands or peninsulas, insular aggregations, deserts, tundras, and permanently ice-covered areas.”

* “**Various sorts of socially-determined regions** (ethnic ones, linguistic ones, political ones..) are.. **superimposed upon ecogeographic regions**”


The Baltic Sea
Drainage Basin
http://maps.grida.no/baltic/
UNEP
GRID
Arendal
0
600 km
N
Population density
0 - 1
1 - 5
5 - 12
12 - 38
38 - 11000
people / sq. km

TOWARDS AN ECOGEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE..

Opening question (Westing, 1989: 1):

* **“[T]o what extent does regional cooperation on environmental protection and nature-resource utilization serve as a confidence-building measure for the purpose of fostering comprehensive international security?”**

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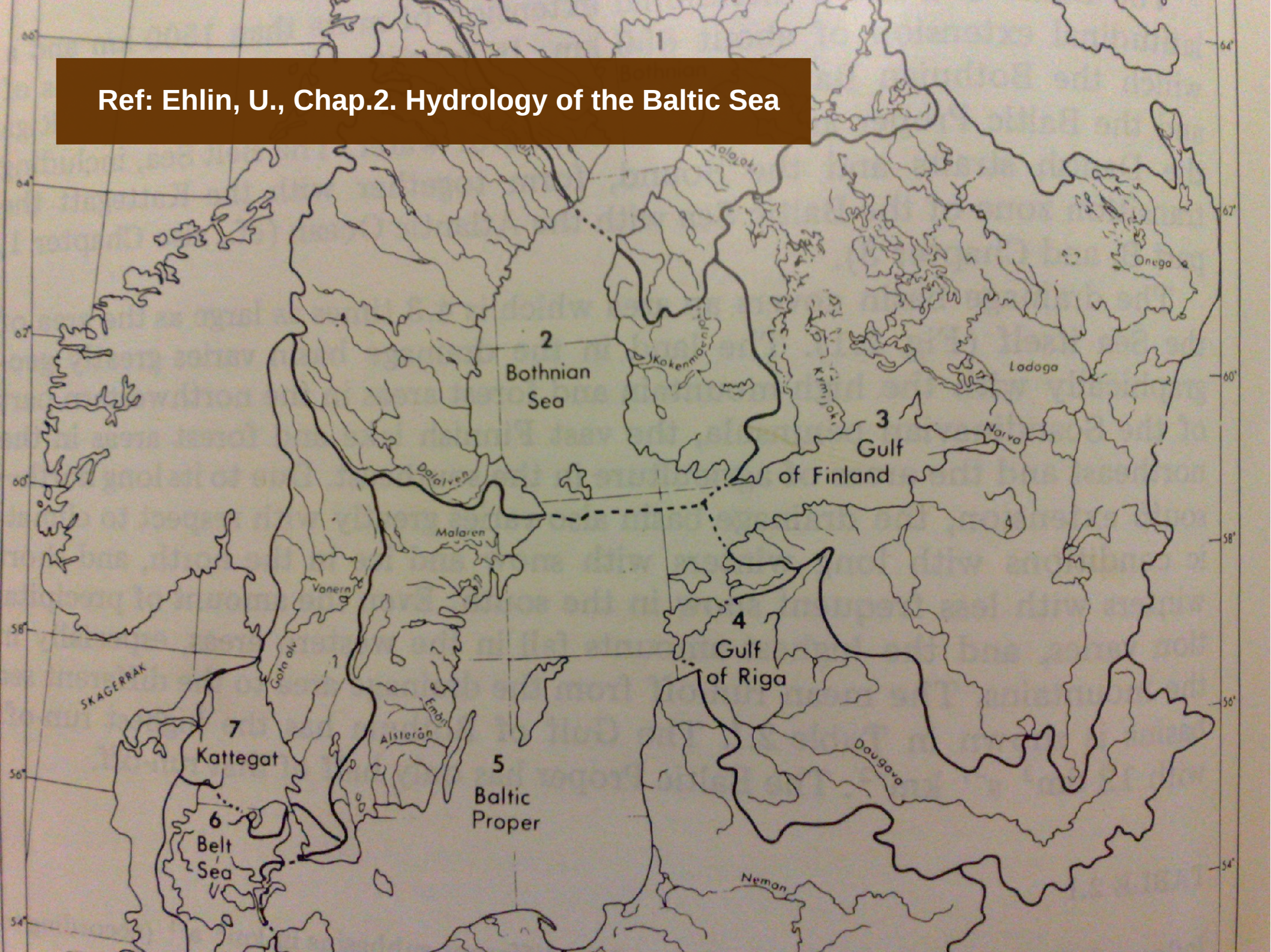
On starting this investigation/approach, I believe:

* There is a necessity to develop trans-disciplinary capacities to engage on/in Commons issues

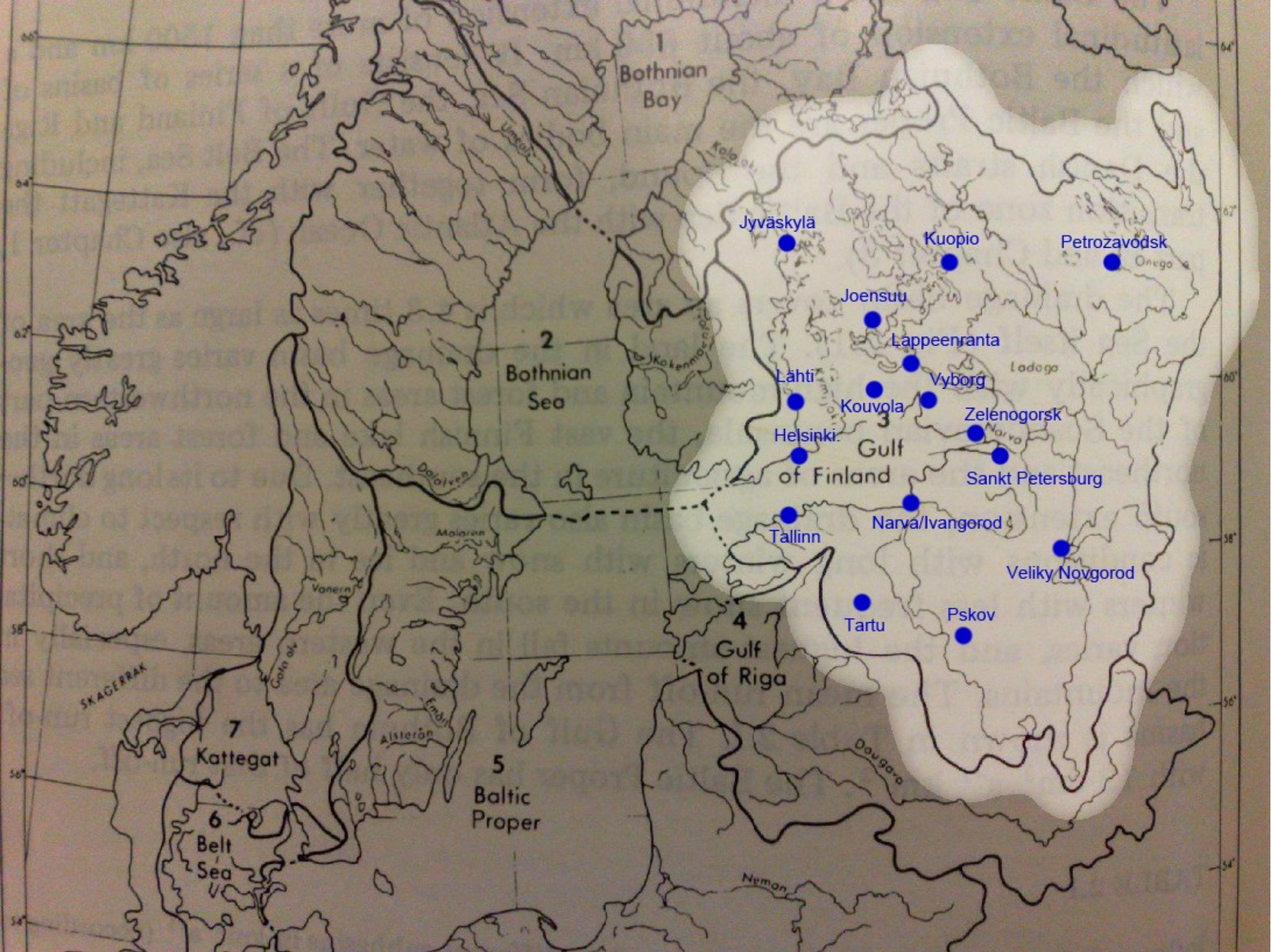
* That cultural workers (such as those gathering around Pixelache) can contribute to environmental protection and sustainabile nature-resource utilisation/management

* Active cultural organisations should lead the way with example, especially those with network-building & -facillitation experience

Ref: Ehlin, U., Chap.2. Hydrology of the Baltic Sea




1
Bothnian
Bay
2
Bothnian
Sea
3
Gulf
of Finland
4
Gulf
of Riga
5
Baltic
Proper
6
Belt
Sea
7
Kattegat
SKAGERRAK
Ladoga
Onega
Narva
Dougava
Neman
Maloren
Vanern
Dalalven
Kokenmaensjoki
Kymijoki
Alsterån
Emån
Göta älv
64°
62°
60°
58°
56°
54°


1
Bothnian
Bay
2
Bothnian
Sea
3
Gulf
of Finland
4
Gulf
of Riga
5
Baltic
Proper
6
Belt
Sea
7
Kattegat
SKAGERRAK
Jyväskylä
Kuopio
Petrozavodsk
Onega
Joensuu
Lappeenranta
Ladoga
Lahti
Vyborg
Kouvola
Zelenogorsk
Helsinki
Narva
Sankt Petersburg
Tallinn
Narva/Ivangorod
Veliky Novgorod
Tartu
Pskov
Dalalven
Malaren
Vanern
Gota alv
Emån
Alsterån
Kalixälven
Kemijoki
Oulujoki
Dvina
Neman

TOWARDS AN ECOGEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE..
Questions and thoughts:

* What will be the effect on cultural organisational work if we do it **mostly within our Ecogeographic subregion of Baltic Sea (ie Gulf of Finland)?**

* **Where do we find the resources and finances to support it?**
Do the funding instruments support this from top-down?
Can we raise the support from grass-roots, bottom-up?

* **There is currently no obvious cultural funding/support for ecogeographic regions** (in Gulf of Finland between Finland, Russia, Estonia)

* **Who would be good partners and collaborators?**
- Environmental/Educational NGO Sector, Institutional scientific research,
- Trans / Inter-disciplinary -type practitioners and researchers
- Cultural associations and activist groups
- Schools and educational/participatory science groups
- 'Baltic Sea Ambassadors' movement